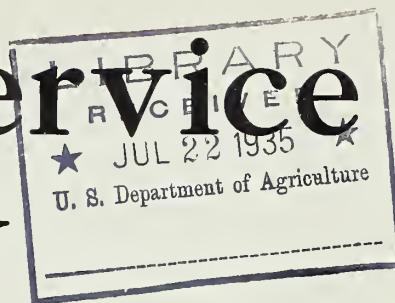


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Extension Service Review



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In This Issue

CHESTER C. DAVIS, Administrator, Agricultural Adjustment Act, believes that the referendum method promises a continuance and greater effectiveness of the democratic principle. He explains the fundamental essentials of the referendum idea and tells why they are important. Mr. Davis also discusses some of the results and their significance.

IN HIS DISCUSSION, "Do We Still Believe in Democracy?" A. F. Wileden, specialist in rural sociology, Wisconsin Extension Service, says, that "If we still believe in local democracy and wish to reestablish its methods, we need to discover or to work out a modern replica of the old town meeting and of the primary locality group." He tells how the "public discussion meeting" is conducted in his State.

KEEPING TOPSOIL at home is a problem that Ohio farmers are facing after a great loss from soil erosion. The Soil Erosion Service, the Soil Erosion Experiment Station at Zanesville, and the Civilian Conservation Corps are cooperating with the Ohio Extension Service to help farmers prevent further loss from erosion.

BECAUSE Iowa boys and girls between the ages of 20 and 30 years wanted to take their part in community affairs they organized themselves into young farmers' clubs. Director R. K. Bliss of Iowa discusses the types of organization which they have, how they conduct their meetings, and the activities in which they are participating.

WHETHER their problems concern the raising of swine, sheep, and poultry or fox farming, the growing of oats and wheat or of Siberian red clover, the preservation of meat or of wild berries and fish, the remodeling and designing of clothing or knitting spiral socks and making gloves from caribou and

reindeer hides, the pioneers who recently went to the Matanuska Valley, Alaska, will find the Alaska Extension Service ready to give them assistance.

MANY FARMERS in Lamaille County, Vt., have been helped to make ends meet by the farm-management program carried on by their county agent, Frank D. Jones. H. W. Soule, county agent leader of Vermont, gives credit to this county agent for helping to relieve a difficult situation.

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On The Calendar

American Association of Agricultural College Editors, Ithaca, N. Y., August 19-24.

Eastern States Exposition, Springfield, Mass., September 15-21.

American Dietetics Association, Cleveland, Ohio, October.

National Recreation Association, Atlantic City, N. J., October 1-4.

Pacific International Livestock Exposition, Portland, Oreg., October 5-12.

National Dairy Exposition, St. Louis, Mo., October 12-19.

American Royal Livestock and Horse Show, Kansas City, Mo., October 19-26.

Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, Washington, D. C., November 18-20.

National 4-H Club Congress, Chicago, Ill., November 29-December 7.

SEVEN YEARS ago it became apparent in Carbon County, Wyo., that meadows which had dwindled as much as 50 percent in yields had to be restored or new meadows must be found. How the old meadows were brought back to produce at least one-third more hay is the story told by County Agent McElroy.

WHAT FART does the radio play in furthering educational programs? From New Jersey comes a story of how the extension agents and the New Jersey Congress of Parents and Teachers are cooperating in broadcasting programs on common problems of the preschool, the school-age, and the adolescent child. Rural parents especially appreciate this opportunity of receiving the most recent and scientific information on the question of child training.

CONTROLLING WEEDS is not an easy task, but farmers in Adams County, Ind., are determined to eradicate them. Since 1931, considerable progress has been made in eradicating weeds through spraying and persistent cultivation.

THE EXTENSION SERVICE REVIEW is issued monthly by the EXTENSION SERVICE of the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. The matter contained in the REVIEW is published by direction of the Secretary of Agriculture as administrative information required for the proper transaction of the public business. The REVIEW seeks to supply to workers and cooperators of the Department of Agriculture engaged in extension activities, information of especial help to them in the performance of their duties, and is issued to them free by law. Others may obtain copies of the REVIEW from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 5 cents a copy, or by subscription at the rate of 50 cents a year, domestic, and 75 cents, foreign. Postage stamps will not be accepted in payment.

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The Referendum Method



CHESTER C. DAVIS
Administrator,
Agricultural Adjustment Act

How the Wheat Farmers Voted

The national summary of votes, which is subject only to minor corrections, showed that 458,973 farmers voted, and of these 397,840 voted for continuing the wheat program and 61,133 voted against it, a percentage in favor of 87. Contract signers were for continuance by 89 percent, 349,495 for, and 42,888 against. A notable feature of the result was the heavy vote for the program cast by noncontract signers. These voting nonsigners were 73 percent for the program, 48,345 voting for and 18,245 against. In the referendum, wheat farmers added their voices to those of the cotton, tobacco, and corn-hog farmers, who previously voted for continued adjustment through the referenda conducted for their commodities.

formation by the farmers themselves that counts.

Finally, the referendum must be run by the farmers themselves. After the extension service has done its part in bringing the information to the farmers,

the participation of the farmers becomes important. Here the county production-control committees have proved invaluable.

These are the essentials of the referendum idea. What of the results and their significance? They are numerous and beneficial, not only to the Adjustment Administration but to farmers themselves, and as indicative to the Nation of what may be done on a similar scale on other economic issues.

There is, first, the immediate result of the referendum. This is the registered decision of the people, either for or against a proposition. These opinions, crystallized in the referendum, serve as a guide to those in responsible administrative positions. The results indicate to the administrative representatives what the people want in general, leaving to the administrators and their advisers from the field the problem of working out the details.

Educational Value

The referendum has a high educational value, and in this respect it should be particularly significant to extension workers. Informed discussion of the questions, which is the core of the referendum idea, results in farmers arriving at considered judgments based upon the facts. Having arrived at a decision, the farmer naturally has an interest in the result and in the action which follows. Hence, the referendum results in the individual taking a more personal interest in the work done by his Government.

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THE significance of the wheat referendum lies in the further evidence which it gives of the economic democracy which farmers are developing under the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. The referendum is another step in the development of a policy of relying upon farmers for the economic decisions upon which the Adjustment Administration operations rest.

The agricultural referendum makes possible clear-cut decisions by great numbers of producers upon specific questions, and our experience with them has indicated certain fundamental essentials. The first of these is that producers must have ample time to discuss the issues involved. The importance of this fact was demonstrated in the first corn-hog referendum when field workers generally agreed that more time should have been available for discussion by farmers. There are limitations upon the speed with which the information on any issue can be made available to and assimilated by all interested farmers.

A second referendum essential is that the question or questions asked must be limited and simple. In the corn-hog referendum some farmers were confused by the question regarding consolidation of the adjustment programs.

Third, the success of any referendum depends upon full discussion of the issues by the farmers themselves. The services of the workers of the extension service in making this information available to farmers is indispensable, but, in the final analysis, it is the discussion of this in-

Better Times in Rural Communities

Farmers and Business Men in Two Counties in Kansas and One in Minnesota Report on Conditions in Their Own Communities

BARTON COUNTY, Kans., hit by the drought and helped by the AAA offers testimony in support of the adjustment programs. Farmers are smiling there in spite of 2 years of bitter drought, smiling because there is a chance for a wheat crop this year and because adjustment payments have furnished them with some cash income in spite of dry weather and crop failures. These payments the farmers regard as crop insurance.

The money so obtained is going for taxes, clothing, food, and the replacement of worn-out machinery, but payment of taxes heads the list. Merchants reported the best Christmas trade in years, indicating that some of the money was spent for Christmas presents.

Help to Schools

Earl Spencer, county superintendent of schools, believes that the benefit payments had much to do with keeping the rural schools in operation this year. "I can definitely say that 3 of the 89 one-room schools of the county would have been closed had not these benefit checks assured the payment of taxes", he states. "Furthermore, I believe that I can safely say that 20 percent of our one-room schools would have been closed before the end of last spring's term had it not been for these payments.

"Just figure out for yourself what this would mean. We have 3,700 boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 16 in these one-room schools. Conservatively estimated, it would have meant that between 500 and 600 of our finest school children would have been deprived of a schooling. Some would have found it possible to enter other districts, but not many."

Land taken from corn production under the terms of 1935 corn-hog contracts will be divided among feed crops, summer fallow, and alfalfa. The county agricultural agent explains that the feed crops will be used to replenish the feed shortage now in the county, and summer fallow and the growing of alfalfa will be in line with the improvement of lands and conservation of soil as advocated by the State extension service in cooperation with local farm bureaus.

Barton County farmers are participating in both the wheat and corn-hog ad-

justment programs. Payments received up to November 30, 1934, totaled \$1,107,624. Wheat producers received checks for \$1,081,632, and corn-hog payments made up the remaining \$25,992.

A McPherson County, Kans., implement dealer, when asked whether or not his business had improved with the coming of agricultural adjustment, said:

"My business has been about 300 percent better in 1934 than in 1933. It is true that machinery was wearing out, but even that wouldn't have persuaded the farmers to buy if they hadn't had a good crop and better prices." The dealer went on to explain that wheat and corn-hog adjustment payments helped to wipe a large number of long-standing farm accounts off his books.

A bank cashier in the same county said that deposits, including a healthy percentage of farm business, had doubled since the spring of 1933.

"I assisted in a farm sale here a few days ago in which the seller received \$50 an acre from a quarter section. Two years ago you couldn't have sold a farm around here at any price", was his comment.

Anton Peterson, county clerk, said that tax collections were more prompt in 1934 than in 1933 because adjustment payments were not so late. "Last year", he said, "the wheat payments didn't get here until just before Christmas, and many farmers were unable to pay their taxes until they had received their benefit payments."

Farmers in this county have received approximately \$795,000 in wheat and corn-hog adjustment payments during the past 12 months. This increased income has been reflected in better business, but McPherson merchants believe improved prices for better crops have been a leading factor in the general business improvement shown during the last 2 years.

Minnesota Farmer Reports

Peter Abrahamson, president of the Fillmore County (Minn.) Corn-Hog Production Control Association, has this to say about the benefits of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration programs which have come under his observation.

"Even in areas visited by drought last year, a majority of Minnesota farm fam-

ilies have something for which to be thankful. Most of them accepted the Federal Government's plan of production adjustment and received payments for adjustments in their normal volume of production of crops and livestock. The destructive effects of the drought have thus been eased in some degree by this crop-insurance plan.

Farmers Paying Debts

"For instance, the 1934 corn-hog program brings into Fillmore County, one of the 1934 'emergency' drought counties, about \$525,000. Although wheat is a minor crop in Fillmore County, the wheat-adjustment program is paying farmers in the county \$3,000 or more a year for 3 years, 1933, 1934, and 1935. The tobacco program brings Fillmore County farmers \$3,000 for 1934. The cattle-buying program added \$137,000 to these amounts, making the total from all AAA programs \$668,000. As a result of this increased income, the farmer is ready to buy the things he needs or to pay the debts he owes the grocer, clothier, banker, hardware merchant, clergyman, or to pay other local obligations. In fact, every person using money as a medium of exchange gets some benefit from these payments.

"In sections of the country where normal or nearly normal crops have been produced, the farm family has realized a substantial increase in income. The farmer is getting nearly a dollar a bushel for his wheat, and his corn, barley, and oats are also bringing good prices. Hog prices have advanced substantially.

"The net income per Minnesota farm in 1932 was \$87 and in 1934, \$387. This increased income has reflected itself in more things for the home and family."

A Homemakers' Club in Every County

When the Logan County (N. Dak.) Homemakers' Club was organized recently it completed the record of a homemakers' club in every county of the State. There are now 557 homemakers' clubs in the State with 9,563 members holding regular meetings and receiving educational material and assistance from the extension service of North Dakota Agricultural College.

Do We Still Believe in Democracy?

A. F. WILEDEN

Specialist in Rural Sociology, Wisconsin Extension Service

DO WE really still believe in democracy? If we do, we accept three assumptions: First, that folks either are or can be interested in really studying the problems that confront them; second, that if folks are provided the facts on all sides of a case and are given free opportunity to study and discuss them, we can trust their decisions; and third, that in arriving at broad policies we prefer the slow and often painful educational method rather than the quicker executive method. From the point of view of the formulation of public policies, these are assumptions on which democracy is based.

Rural Life is Changing

Rural life is rapidly changing from the primary locality group relationships of earlier days. These are being replaced by a vast number of selective groups, or special-interest groups, each organized around certain objectives. Although many States still legally have local town government, its powers are one by one being transferred to other units of government, and its functioning has become largely a matter of form. Larger and more impersonal governmental units are taking its place. If we still believe in local democracy and wish to reestablish its methods, we need to discover or to work out a modern replica of the old town meeting and of the primary locality group.

It is in answer to these needs that the panel, the symposium, the lecture forum, and the informal-discussion group are proposed. And the debate still holds its place in the order of things. It was to meet this need particularly among rural groups in Wisconsin that the "public discussion meeting" was developed.

Wisconsin needed a kind of meeting that could take its place as a part of the regular program of these hundreds of local rural organizations as they meet from month to month—community clubs, farm bureaus, farmers' equity unions, granges, parent-teachers' associations, social centers, and the like. Wisconsin needed a type of meeting that rural people could put on for themselves without being dependent upon speakers and

Recent months have witnessed a renewed interest in forms of public discussion. Just why should this renewed interest come about? Is it because we feel a potential threat that democracy may be lost to us unless we hasten to make use of its prerogatives? Or can it be that for generations our problems have been such that we did not need to go through the slow and often painful learning processes of talking things over with Mr. Average Citizen? At any rate, country and city alike are today reviving the methods of the old New England town meeting where the electors got together to study their problems and then debate the various alternatives as to what to do about them.

specialists from the "outside" and yet having at their disposal the very latest facts and developments on the questions under consideration. It needed a type of meeting where all the background facts and all the possible solutions to a question could be freely presented according to the speakers' beliefs on the matter. The resulting "public-discussion meeting" was designed to make possible these first two steps in studying a problem. The third step, the decision as to what to do about it, might very well be a following meeting in the form of a debate on issues that come out of the public-discussion meeting. It seemed logical, however, that an intelligent decision as to what to do about a situation is only possible when the situation has been adequately studied and all of the possible solutions given consideration.

The Public Discussion Meeting

This public discussion meeting as used in Wisconsin, is most like the symposium. The "cast of characters" for the most satisfactory meeting includes a local discussion chairman, about 6 local discussion speakers, and an audience of from a dozen to 60 people. Its essential difference from the symposium is in the preparation that is made in advance by the chairman and by the discussion speakers. A logical organization of the problem under discussion must be worked out; information and materials on all sides of the problem must be obtained, and, if possible, some training in discussion methods and in public speaking must be obtained. This preparation is particularly important when meetings are to be put

on entirely by lay people. Naturally, much of the responsibility for providing this preparation falls to county and State people interested in this form of adult education. The following is the organization of the topic, "Dairy Farming and the AAA" which was followed very effectively last winter:

The present situation

1. The decline in Wisconsin dairy incomes.
2. Wisconsin's position in the national dairy industry.

3. AAA programs now in operation and other developments as they affect Wisconsin dairying.

Possible methods of increasing Wisconsin dairy income

4. Decreasing costs of production.
5. Obtaining a larger share of the consumer's dollar.
6. Raising prices.

This plan provides for a public discussion meeting of about 1½-hours duration. Each of the discussion speakers takes about 7 minutes for his presentation, and about three-quarters of an hour is devoted to discussion from the floor. The meeting is ordinarily closed with a summary, given either by the chairman or someone in the audience selected for that purpose. The purpose of the summary is twofold, to draw together in brief compass the scattered ideas and suggestions that have been presented and to point the way to further issues or logical next steps that need consideration.

Background information and source materials are particularly important to a successful public discussion meeting. These materials must be worked out and organized with public discussion use in mind and should present all sides of the question. They should be well and simply written and be "up to the minute", as most good discussion topics are "up to the minute." Furthermore, in rural areas they should be made available, either through a free or loan service, and issued promptly. Nothing discourages discussion speakers more than to be obliged to wait for some materials

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Lost: Millions of Dollars

But Ohio Takes Steps to Keep the Rest of Her Topsoil at Home

SOMEWHERE along the Ohio River, the Mississippi River, or the Gulf of Mexico lies a fortune. This fortune is in the form of millions of dollars worth of topsoil washed from Ohio farms during past years.

came in, but a thin sod and close grazing caused more soil to be washed away, and the bluegrass gave way to broomsedge, the broomsedge to poverty grass, and the poverty grass to bare ground and gullies.

tons of soil removed per acre under the conditions of slope and crop indicated, July 1, 1933, to January 1, 1934.



Soil control by strip farming.

To help keep the rest of the topsoil at home and to rebuild depleted fertility, the Ohio Extension Service has been cooperating with several organizations on erosion-control studies and demonstrations, according to D. R. Dodd, extension agronomist.

Soil erosion is a serious problem on 75 percent of the land area of Ohio. The damage amounts to millions of dollars each year and careful surveys indicate that many farms have lost from their entire area an average of 8 inches of soil in the last 30 to 50 years.

Land that was productive a few years ago has rapidly deteriorated, chiefly due to erosion. When this land was first devoted to crop production, corn was extensively grown, and yields of 50 to 75 bushels resulted. Grain yields were high and hay yielded 2 or more tons per acre. As erosion continued, yields dropped until corn fell below 20 bushels and grain and hay yields dropped proportionally. At this stage the farmer, realizing that something was wrong but not knowing what, ceased to cultivate the land and let it go to pasture without lime or fertilizer, and at times without seeding. Frequently, some bluegrass

Anything having such an important bearing upon the economic and social welfare of the people, and especially upon the future of agricultural production, is of vital concern to the agricultural extension service. Realizing the extent of this problem and the duty of the extension service in respect thereto, every possible aid and encouragement have been given to agencies working in the field of erosion control. The extension workers were cooperators in the activities leading to the establishing of the Federal Soil Erosion Experiment Station and the Soil Erosion Service at Zanesville, Ohio, and have served these organizations in an advisory capacity since their establishment.

Value of Results

The value of the results already obtained at the erosion experiment station cannot be estimated for the State, as this depends upon the extent to which they are adopted, but certainly it will amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars. Some of the results obtained are given in the following table showing the percent of rainfall running off during or immediately following rains with the

Type of cover	Percent slope	Run-off	Soil removed per acre
		Percent	Tons
Corn.....	12	31	25
Do.....	20	31	49
Corn, surface removed.....	12	45	74
Timothy-clover.....	12	20	3
Fertilized bluegrass sod.....	12	9	.26
Forest.....	12	Trace	Trace

The Soil Erosion Service, working in the Salt Creek Watershed, has already demonstrated in a way that was not otherwise possible the practical means and methods that could be profitably utilized on every farm subject to erosion for the conservation of soil and water. Although this project has taken comparatively little time of the extension workers, this efficiently organized and operated service has made that time very fruitful in the results obtained. The benefits of this project, like those of the experiment station, already may be counted in hundreds of thousands of dollars and eventually in much higher figures.

The erosion-control work of the Civilian Conservation Corps is another project that has received considerable time and encouragement from the extension service. Assistance has been given insofar as agronomic problems were involved in: (1) Finding areas suitable for the location of erosion-control camps; (2) advising with the administrative force concerning the type of work that should be done at the various locations; (3) inspection of and suggestion for the improvement of work done; (4) preparation of plans and recommendations for the guidance of supervisors and workers; (5) conferences with groups of supervisors concerning the progress of the work.

Extension Agents Help

The extension workers have attempted to keep in mind the fact that in soil-erosion work they are contributing to a field of great concern to society, present and future, that the volume of work now urgently demanding attention is sufficient to employ many thousands of men, and that comparatively few of the farmers seriously handicapped by this menace

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Older Youth Run Their Own Show

Play Active Part in Community Life

R. K. BLISS

Director, Iowa Extension Service]

RURAL young people, trained to work together as 4-H club members and future farmers, are not content to remain idle until old enough to take an active part in adult organization. Boys and girls between the ages of 20 and 30 years—a group heretofore little touched by extension work and farm organization—are not content to view agricultural activities from the side lines. For that reason, the development of young farmers' clubs in Iowa, as in many other States, is rapidly gaining momentum.

During the winter of 1931-32, a large number of rural young people found themselves on farms without a medium of expression or an organization to absorb their energy. Under normal conditions many of these young people would have been in college or engaged in city occupations. Lack of money made college impossible at the time; jobs anywhere were at a premium. During that winter the first young farmers' organization in Iowa was formed in Fayette County, and the following year a similar group was organized in Black Hawk County. The Scott County Drama Club, concentrating on drama work and composed largely of rural young people, had been organized 2 years previously.

Approximately 2,500 young men and women in this State now are active in 46 rural young people's organizations. Thirty of these organizations draw their membership from entire counties, and 28 of that number are composed of both boys and girls. Sixteen groups are organized on a community basis, serving the territory immediately surrounding high schools in which vocational agriculture and home economics are taught.

Like Topsy, the movement "just grew up." The idea spread from Black Hawk and Fayette Counties over the northeastern section of the State, and by last winter more than 50 counties had signified their desire to organize such groups. During the winter of 1933-34 Benton County organized the first of the "junior farm bureau" groups, in which they included both young men and young women. Since that time most of the other

county-wide groups have adopted this form of organization.

Initiative for the organization of young farmers' clubs has come from the young people themselves. Naturally, they called on county agents or Smith-Hughes teachers for assistance, but the actual leadership is found among the members, many of whom have had years of training in junior organizations.

Important Place in Community

Not only do these young farmers' clubs provide an outlet for the activities of the members, but they are assuming an important place in community affairs. For example, the Black Hawk County Junior Farm Bureau sponsored a series of discussion meetings patterned after the panel forum. This discussion group attracted considerable interest, and one of the township farm bureaus has held discussion meetings patterned after it.

The Black Hawk Junior Farm Bureau also is actively cooperating in sponsoring a 4-H club fat barrow show for northeastern Iowa to be held in Waterloo next fall. It has cooperated in sponsoring the county club fair, providing township farm bureau programs, and entered a float depicting the progress of farm organizations in the annual Waterloo Day parade.

The Johnson County Junior Farm Bureau participated in the county-wide drama tourney. An entire evening's program for the county 4-H club fair is being planned as its contribution to community activities.

During farm and home week at Iowa State College in 1934 and in 1935, an annual conference of representatives from the various young farmers' clubs was held. Delegates from 28 such organizations attended this year's conference to discuss problems confronting the groups and to exchange ideas that might be used in programs and in planning



The future program of the Rural Young People's Organization of Poweshiek County, Iowa, rested in the hands of the temporary executive committee as the above picture was snapped. H. F. Miller, county agent, looks on as the committee members make plans for the future of the newly organized young farmers' group.

activities. At the conclusion of the conference certain recommendations concerning the most desirable form of organization were formulated, and a State organization was inaugurated to sponsor State-wide events and to foster the growth and development of the local units. An advisory committee representing adult farm leaders, extension work, and vocational education was elected to assist the young farmers' executive committee.

The first club was organized by young people in Fayette County in the winter of 1931-32 with the assistance of B. W. Lodwick, county agent. Daytime meetings starting at 10 a. m. and lasting until about 3:30 p. m. were held once a week during the winter. The following year the Black Hawk County group, composed entirely of young men, was organized. This group held night meetings. A typical program consisted of a business meeting, discussion of current events, a period devoted to study of some group project, and a group discussion or a talk. The evening was climaxed by a swim, a period of games, or some other recreational activity.

In 1932 five other counties in the northeastern section of the State formed young farmers' organizations. The growth of the movement since that time has been steady. This spring the Extension Service at Iowa State College employed George Strayer, president of the State organization and a graduate of the college, as temporary assistant to work with young farmers' organizations. Mr. Strayer has been helping the local groups to develop their programs, perfect their

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Art in Wise Spending



The Clarence Jensen family as they study their home account book summary, discuss the farm book summary, and the parents help the boys to compare the total of this year with that of last year as shown in their personal account books.

"**E**ARNING is an occupation, wise spending an art." This quotation helps to dignify in our minds the job of managing our money by classing it with the arts. Any art must be cultivated, must be practiced, and in order to obtain good results there should be efficient instruments or tools with which to work. The first equipment needed in the art of keeping records of home spending is a conveniently arranged book with a system of entry which meets the family need." Thus asserts Muriel Smith, home management specialist in Nebraska, who tells how Nebraska women are developing skill in the art of spending.

Every home is a business concern with income and outgo. Every homemaker is one of the managers of this business concern using money and home products which, if not used at home, might be sold. How much does the manager of this concern improve each year in her management job?

The keeping of a home account is a device which has already helped many Nebraska homemakers as is shown by their continued interest and the growth in number of those who have kept records and have sent their books to the College of Agriculture for summary during the past years. In 1929, the first year in which this work was undertaken, there were 25 homemakers who kept the whole year's record and sent the book in for summary. In 1930 there were 36 books summarized; in 1931, 91 books summarized; in 1932, 147 books summarized; in 1933, 214 books summarized; and in 1934 there were 585 homemakers keeping the records, of which 292 books were sent in for summarizing. There are 785 Nebraska books being kept for 1935, 399 by home-account keepers in the 14 counties having home extension agents and 386 by those in 20 nonhome-agent counties.

The plan followed in carrying on the home account project includes a winter meeting or conference at which time account keepers prepare a check sheet

which helps them to make the book complete on all entries and information. These books are then sent to the college where they are tabulated, and a personal summary is prepared and returned to the owner of the book. The combination of these summaries furnishes averages and tables which help to judge the trends and see the true facts of farm and town home spending during the past year. Comparison with former summaries is both interesting and valuable, and the results of these summaries are vitalized with account keepers when the State specialist visits the counties at the mid-year for home-account meetings and conferences.

Each family is interested in knowing and seems to have a more satisfied feeling as they study the tables of a summary which show the value in dollars and cents for the contribution which home products make to their year's living. The average value of home products used in 164 Nebraska farm families during 1933 was \$176.17. The average for 1934 is expected to be greater in value, the reason being that the value of products has been higher rather than that more home products have been used. The amount of this increase will appear in the State summary of the 1934 books which is being prepared and will be used in the 1935 mid-year meetings with home-account keepers.

Many rural families have expressed great satisfaction with the results of home-account keeping, stating that they are now able to pay their taxes, send their children to school, and provide certain comforts for the home.

Again this work may be compared with developing an art, and the successful results in this art give pleasure and satisfaction.

THE Honorable Henry Styles Bridges, Governor of New Hampshire, served the farmers of Hancock County, Maine, as county extension agent from March 1, 1920, to November 30, 1921.

Older Youth Run Their Own Show

(Continued from page 69)

organization, and make plans for future development.

Group Thinking

The organizations are known by various names including "junior farm bureau", "young farmers' clubs", and "young farmers' forum." No iron-clad rules or outlines for organization have been established. The type of organization has been developed by the young people to meet their local conditions and desires. All groups hold meetings at least once each month; some meet more often, especially during the winter. Although the first groups were organized either by boys or girls, the tendency now is toward mixed groups with 28 of the 30 county organizations including both young men and young women. Personal development and group thinking are being stressed by the leaders. Assistance is being given by the extension service, when requested, in developing the organization and in furnishing materials and suggestions for programs. Speakers are furnished occasionally on request.

Programs vary with the season. During the long winter evenings much of the time during a meeting is devoted to educational subjects. With the coming of spring and its accompanying field work and longer hours, fewer meetings are held and more time is spent in social and recreational activities. During this time of the year wiener roasts, steak fries, moonlight boat rides, and picnics are popular.

One-Variety Cotton Area Increased

An increase in the area in Georgia devoted to the production of one variety of cotton from 90,000 acres in 1934 to 250,000 acres in 1935 is estimated by E. C. Westbrook, cotton and tobacco specialist of Georgia State College of Agriculture. During 1934 there were 45 communities participating in the program while this year 19 complete counties and an additional 90 communities have been organized and made definite plans to grow only one variety.

In 1934 approximately 43,000 bales were produced in one-variety communities, and buyers paid an average of \$3 more per bale for this cotton, which was from 1 to 1½ inches in length, than they did for shorter cotton.

New Meadows for Old

County Agent John J. McElroy Tells How Better Meadows Proved Their Value in a Wyoming Livestock County

NEW MEADOWS in old fields with upwards of one-third more hay is the story of a simple program of meadow improvement carried out in Carbon County, Wyo., during the past 6 years.

Carbon County is preeminently a livestock area, being the home of some 400,000 head of sheep and 60,000 head of cattle. It is the leading livestock county of the State, ranking as the first sheep county and among the first five cattle counties. The production of its livestock with its summer range of desert and mountain, is dependent in a large measure on its ability to produce winter forage feed. Its hay is typical of that raised in the mountain valleys of the region, being alfalfa, grasses, and clovers, and of that type of hay known more generally as native hay.

During the past 2 years when water was scarce, cultivation of alfalfa definitely proved itself to be one means of overcoming drought conditions. Andrew Kortés of Leo, in the northern section of the county, who has consistently cultivated his alfalfa meadows for 5 years, obtained increasing yields with a decreasing water supply. In 1934, Mr. Kortés cultivated but 30 of the usual 50 acres. Mr. Kortés states that, in the face of the extreme water shortage, he is certain that cultivation accounts for such alfalfa as he was able to cut. On the 30 acres cultivated he cut a short first crop and a very short second crop. On the remaining 20 acres he cut no hay. While it is true that the 30 acres had the advantage of such water as there was, Mr. Kortés believes that cultivation made possible still better use of the water so that the meadow was able to yield the small amount of hay which he did obtain. Other ranchers located in the North Platte Valley around Saratoga and Encampment tell pretty much the same story.

This principle has been adapted to native meadows in the Carbon County program. Seven years ago as the decreasing yields of native meadows became more and more apparent, interest began to center around some means of bringing back to higher production these older meadows. A cost-of-production study conducted by the department of farm economics of the State university

in this area between 1928 and 1932 indicated that meadow yields varied on the average from as low as $\frac{1}{2}$ ton per acre to 2 tons per acre.

The history of these meadows as recited by the ranchers operating them was the same. Meadows, which some years ago in their youth produced heavy crops of hay, had dwindled down to yields of 50 percent, and even less, of their former productiveness. These meadows had developed sod-bound conditions, become sealed with moss and fouled with weeds and undesirable plant growth which was occupying the space needed for the hay plants themselves. Either these meadows had to be brought back into hay production or new meadows had to be found if the hay yield was to be maintained.

It was apparent that the overhead on the meadow producing $\frac{1}{2}$ ton to the acre was as great as that on the meadow producing 2 tons per acre. Taxes were the same, interest on investment the same, the cost and labor of irrigation the same, and the labor of putting up hay was negligible in its difference because it required almost as much time to cover the area with haying machinery.

Cultivation of Meadows

When cultivation was first considered in relationship to native meadows, certain questions arose concerning its adaptation. Was not brush dragging in the spring sufficient cultivation? To what depth could one cultivate native meadows? What was the best type of harrow to use? Should reseeding be practiced in connection with it?

Because of the lack of experience with this particular operation, answers to these questions had to be worked out. Brush dragging was not cultivation. Brush dragging is a desirable and worthwhile practice because it breaks up and spreads the clods of manure left by winter feeding, but it is in no sense cultivation. The depth to which one could cultivate was a question of serious import. At first it was thought that cultivation to any depth would tear out all of the hay and ruin the meadow entirely. Experience, however, seems to have taught that cultivation to a depth of from 3 to 5 inches gives splendid results. In the early stages, various types of harrows, including disks, spring-tooth,

ordinary spike-tooth, and old-fashioned A-type harrows were used. Over the years the old-fashioned A-type harrow has proved to be the most desirable implement: it can be made in the ranch shop without much expense; it is heavy and stands the hard work and strain of meadow cultivation; and it can be weighted down and do a thorough job of tearing.

Cultivation loosens up the sod-bound condition, tears open a sealed soil, allowing aeration for plant roots, tears up and rolls out carpets of moss, uproots shallow-rooted weeds, provides an open surface for quicker and better use of irrigation water, and the meadow responds as a crop responds to cultivation; that is, with thicker, more uniform stands of cleaner, finer hay.

Increased Yield

An increase in yield of from 20 to 30 percent by cultivation alone has been the result of this meadow-improvement practice. As time goes on, indirect results are becoming apparent. Greater attention and thought to meadows are leading to greater attention and thought to irrigation ditches. In general, it has the tendency of developing better meadow care involving clean ditches, more careful irrigation, and more careful pasturing.

George Austin of Walcott, who began the practice of cultivation of native meadows in 1932, has found that cultivation can account for a 30-percent increase in hay. In 1934, when there was an acute water shortage, he said, "I feel that the inexpensive cultivation of the meadows during the shortage of water greatly improved my hay, as it made possible much better use of the meager supply of water."

Mr. Austin has been consistent and thorough in his practice of cultivation, and has made in his ranch shop a harrow in triangular form, 16 feet on the side, with teeth of soft steel set 6 inches apart and extending through the timbers 6 inches. The teeth are set forward at an angle of 45°—an angle at which they clean well.

The harrow is drawn from the side and does a thorough job. Because of its size, when it is weighted down, it requires eight horses to pull. Smaller harrows of the same type have been con-

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Distributing 2,319 Benefit Checks

County Agent H. G. Wharton of Nash County, N. C.,
Distributes Checks at Rate of 68 an Hour

FARMERS in Nash County, N. C., needed their benefit payments on tobacco to buy fertilizer. To get the money quickly meant the difference between cash price and time price, and County Agent Wharton knew that any delay in getting them out took money from the farmer's pocket. When he heard on Thursday morning, March 28, that there were some registered packages at the Nashville post office, he lost no time in completing his plan of action. The 34 packages of registered checks were thrown in an empty mail bag and carried to the county agent's office like a sack of meal to prevent the news getting around, so that farmers would not apply for their checks before the office force was ready for them. A summary of the 34 receipt forms showed that there were 2,319 checks totaling \$304,897.41.

The first thing to do was to get out cards of notification. There were 2,900 of these cards mimeographed Thursday afternoon which read, "In order for you to get your tobacco parity check which is in my office it will be absolutely necessary for you to bring this card with you. No check will be issued unless a card is presented. No one can get your check unless they bring a written order from you. Our office hours are 8:30 to 5 p. m. Your cooperation will be appreciated in order to get these checks out to you as quickly as possible." Four stenographers addressed the cards Thursday afternoon, and all office workers came back to the office that night and worked until 10:30 so that the 1,300 cards addressed might be in all post offices in Nash County by 8 o'clock Friday morning.

Thursday night a conference was held in the agent's office and a method of distributing the checks figured out. A space at the entrance of the courthouse annex was blocked off with a large table. The farmers filed by this table and left by a door in the rear. A man who had had experience explaining the contracts to farmers was stationed at the door to keep the applicants in line and explain the distribution of parity payments to tenants. When the line began to move through Friday afternoon it was found that this explanation took too much time,

so the directions were mimeographed on a card showing how payment should be made among half-share croppers, cash renters, and the like, and the cards were passed out to the farmers. They were told to see their local township committeemen if they had trouble figuring each tenant's share. Only 5 farmers were allowed in the room at one time, and the line extended 40 feet from the door at one time on Friday afternoon.

The checks and receipt forms were arranged in numerical order. One clerk handled receipt forms and saw that the signatures were signed properly, and another handled the checks and saw that the checks corresponded with the cards. As the checks were given out, the notification cards were put into an empty box. Thus a

record was kept of the number of checks given out and the day the farmer received his check.

On Friday afternoon 283 checks were given out, on Saturday 503 checks, and on Monday 581 checks were distributed. With an 8-hour working day, the checks were delivered in 2½ days at the rate of about 68 per hour. The prompt delivery meant a great deal to many of the farmers, as otherwise they would have had to pay 15 or 20 percent on time price for fertilizer. Mr. Wharton estimates that a possible \$2,000 or \$3,000 per day was saved farmers by the prompt delivery of the benefit checks.



The county agent lines up the farmers to receive their benefit checks.

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structed which require the power of 6 and 4 horses, respectively.

George Wilson of Hanna tells an interesting story of meadow cultivation and drought. He reports that in 1932 he cut 150 tons of hay on approximately 200 acres of land, while in 1933, following a good job of cultivation, he cut 225 tons. Although he cultivated this meadow again in 1934, due to water shortage he cut only 75 tons of hay. Mr. Wilson points out that there is no question but that cultivation accounts for a considerable part of the 75 tons of hay cut in 1934.

Louis Schilt of Saratoga increased the production of hay on 90 acres from 60 tons in 1931 to 127 tons in 1933. This increase of more than 50 percent, according to Mr. Schilt's story, was accomplished by little change in the care of his meadows other than the cultivation. Drought entered into the picture in 1934,

and only 30 acres of land were cultivated. There was a difference of approximately 25 percent in production between the cultivated and the uncultivated area. Moreover, the hay on the cultivated area was superior in quality to that on the uncultivated area. With hay in this area at from \$14 to \$17 in the stack, meadow cultivation paid Mr. Schilt.

These stories can be duplicated on many ranches in some degree. This practice is bringing back these old meadows, and during the period of water shortage has played a doubly important part. It is a practice fundamental to the ranch well-being in this area—a practice which is inexpensive because it does not require expensive machinery or implements, only an outlay of labor. Over and beyond the drought years, it is bound to continue to play its part in the maintenance of meadow productivity. It seems to be a substantial factor in any program designed to assist in the recovery of these meadows from the effects of the dry years.

What of Radio?

THE child-training and parent-education radio program conducted during the past 3 years by the New Jersey Extension Service indicates overwhelmingly that radio is an important factor in adult education today. Presented over station WOR of Newark, N. J., these broadcasts on common problems of the pre-school, the school-age, and the adolescent child have been made available to thousands of parents eager to learn what scientific research and careful study have revealed in recent years about vital questions having to do with all stages of the child's growth and development.

The New Jersey Congress of Parents and Teachers has cooperated with the extension service in making each of these broadcasts something more than "just another radio talk." Study groups have been organized in practically every county of the State for the express purpose of giving interested parents an opportunity to meet together and discuss the material presented on these weekly programs in its relation to their own specific problems with growing youngsters. Reports on the late winter series, seven broadcasts on "the school-age child", show a membership list of 1,345 participants in 81 individual study groups in all sections of the State. Certainly this figure indicates the growing interest of parents in this problem of child training and also the success which radio has met as a teaching medium.

Study Groups

From the very beginning, the home demonstration agents of the State have given the study group idea their enthusiastic cooperation and support. Without their participation and help the venture would not have been possible. It might be interesting to look back to the first of these programs, inaugurated in the spring of 1932 by the late Edith D. Dixon, extension specialist in child training and parent education at that time and a pioneer in the field of radio study group planning.

Briefly, the plan as Miss Dixon conceived it and as it was worked out with the State Congress of Parents and Teachers, provided for a series of interrelated radio talks to be given by the specialist

Is radio merely a medium of entertainment, or is it serving a definite purpose in furthering certain educational programs, and in making them available to a large public that might not otherwise have access to such interests? Mrs. Marion F. McDowell, extension assistant professor of parent education, New Jersey College of Agriculture, Rutgers University, gives her answer.

in child training and parent education on successive weeks over station WOR. These broadcasts were focused in general on the home background and its effect upon the child's development.

The home demonstration agent's part in the setting up of the plan was to contact interested groups who might be eager or willing to devote some time to making a study of the talks after they had been given and to the references which would be distributed for each talk. When the nucleus of such a group had been formed, the next step was to find a church, a school, a library, or a private home in which regular weekly meetings might be held.

P. T. A. Cooperates

Once she formed her groups and started them on their first meetings, the agent generally found the rest of the procedure comparatively easy. Copies of each talk were mimeographed at the State extension service office and sent to every member of a study group, together with references for further study. Miss Dixon sent definite instructions to each agent on how to build up the study program, and full details on the organization of a study group were printed in the official organ of the New Jersey Congress of Parents and Teachers. Sometimes the group leader was an active P. T. A. worker; sometimes the agent herself conducted the discussions; and sometimes it was just an enthusiastic mother, who had recognized in the group-study idea an excellent opportunity for helping her child and stepped into the picture as leader. Needless to say, these weekly meetings proved lively and interesting affairs, stimulating discussion on any number of common difficulties encountered in this all-important business of child rearing.

Miss Dixon's original plan proved so adequate to the needs of the various groups that it has been followed practically as she inaugurated it with the possible exception of the introduction of greater flexibility in the carrying out of group activities. Instead of meeting together to listen to each broadcast, as

was originally planned, members of groups frequently follow the plan now of listening individually to the talks, meeting at

the time most convenient for all members to discuss the material presented. From that first series of talks on the importance of home background and its influence on the child have developed 3 series of broadcasts, each consisting usually of 6 talks. These three units cover the pre-school, the school-age, and the adolescent periods. Not only the specialist in child training and parent education but other members of the home economics extension service staff contribute discussions to each series. Members of the State Congress of Parents and Teachers and prominent experts in the field of child training have also broadcast from time to time on these programs.

Just what is the value of this radio study group set-up to the home demonstration agent? Judging by the enthusiasm of New Jersey's agents for the plan, it offers so many advantages that it has become a very important part of the program of work in most counties. It provides a method whereby the agent may reach a large number of parents with the expenditure of only the minimum of her own time and efforts. Most of the detail work involved in the plan can be efficiently handled by the office secretary, by telephone or by mail, and requires usually only the agent's supervision. "Cooperation" is a byword in all phases of extension work, and in few cases is its value more apparent than in that of radio study group organization. Not only does the State office work directly with the agent, and she in turn with the parents of her county, but the actual organization of the groups brings into active cooperation with the extension service the facilities of the State Congress of Parents and Teachers. Certainly, the combined efforts of two such organizations, working toward the common goal of bringing the most recent and scientific information on the question of child training to parents in all parts of the State who are eager and anxious to receive it, should make success almost inevitable!

The agent also has the advantage of working with a project the simplicity and

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Connecticut Farmers Weigh Tobacco Benefits

"CONNECTICUT 'outdoor' tobacco farmers gained more than 50 percent cash income in 1934 over the average of the previous 2 years, made tremendous savings in cash expenditures, reduced the surplus which has been a millstone about their necks for the past 4 years, and generally saved tobacco farms in this area from wholesale foreclosures—all this as a result of participation in the agricultural adjustment cigar-tobacco program", announces W. S. Middaugh, assistant farm-management specialist in Connecticut.

The adjustment program for cigar tobacco was announced in 1933 after planting had started. Many of the growers had already made commitments for fertilizer, for renting land, and for labor. Nevertheless, when the program was explained to them by their extension agents, 37 percent of the Connecticut tobacco farmers signed contracts in 1933. On the basis of the success of the 1933 program, 95 percent of the tobacco farmers signed voluntary contracts in 1934.

The farmers recognized that the stored surplus would have to be used before the prices would return to a satisfactory level. The stocks of cigar tobacco, a nonperishable luxury product had in-

creased from 1929 to 1932. If every acre of land had been used for other purposes and no tobacco produced in 1933, there still would have been some surplus. Connecticut Broadleaf and Havana Seed tobacco farmers reduced their normal acreage by 47 percent in 1933 and 70 percent in 1934 from the base acreage. Continued substantial reduction in 1935 is expected to result in a more nearly normal supply situation.

Two years of excessive loss by hail followed by 3 years of low income, 1931-33, had placed the Connecticut tobacco farmers in an extremely precarious position. The tobacco program has not restored the total income from tobacco to its former level, but in 1934 it was 50 percent above the average of the previous 2 years. The program has provided the cooperative machinery by which the farmers could voluntarily adjust farming operations so that the surplus would disappear in an orderly manner. This cooperative effort is one of the most important phases of the tobacco-control program. The tobacco-adjustment machinery has not been imposed on the farmers, but rather has been accepted voluntarily by them as the most effective and least ex-

pensive method of making adjustments which are obviously essential if the tobacco industry is to be self-supporting.

The 50 percent increase in tobacco farmers' income has made it possible for them to settle some back debts, pay taxes which had been pyramiding, and avoid adding to the public-welfare list. The tobacco farmers are not out of debt; few of them have been able to make almost essential repairs or to renew equipment, but they have started on the road which will lead to efficient adjustment and sound financial standing.

The tobacco program has furnished the farmers with the machinery for effecting temporary adjustment. The gain in cash income and the big savings in cash expenditures have given the farmers renewed courage to make the adjustments that are necessary for the prosperity of the Connecticut Valley tobacco region.

What of Radio?

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informality of which make it practical for every type of group, every type of community within range of the powerful WOR. In the rural districts where there is little access to study material on this subject and where speakers well versed in its most recent findings are difficult to obtain, the plan has been particularly well received.

It incurs no obligation on the part of any participant, yet it offers thought-stimulating material so general in its appeal that it finds application in almost every household where there are children. Groups who might have objected to accepting this information from one of their own number, on the basis of her not having a sufficiently wide background and knowledge of the subject to offer, gladly take the material at its face value when it is given by the specialist or by an expert in the field.

Junior club leaders are frequently among the most active members of these study groups, finding in them excellent preparation for their work with young people of club age. Home demonstration agents report, too, that as a result of the contacts they are making among the groups formed in their counties they are receiving numerous requests for talks and for demonstrations of other phases of extension service work.

Leader-discussion groups, where group leaders meet with the specialist and talk over organization and group-activity problems, are held regularly in some New Jersey counties and have resulted in a more integrated program.



HOME-DEMONSTRATION agents from New York State pause long enough to pose with Director Warburton at the entrance of the Administration Building of the Department of Agriculture. About 30 agents and home-economics specialists recently spent 5 days in Washington studying the research work carried on in the Bureau of Home Economics, the work of the Consumers' Counsel, AAA, the various extension offices; and other Government agencies whose work touches that of the home-demonstration agent. The program included a tea with Mrs. Roosevelt at the White House; talks by M. L. Wilson, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture; C. W. Warburton, director of extension; Mrs. Emily Newell Blair of NRA; Dr. Louise Stanley, Bureau of Home Economics; and others.

Making Ends Meet

Alert Agent Helped to Relieve Difficult Situation in Vermont County

H. W. SOULE

County Agent Leader, Vermont

AS THE indomitable Micawber of David Copperfield would say, "Income \$2,000, expenditures \$1,500—happiness. Income \$2,000, expenditures \$2,100—misery." How true it is! And when I look around me and see many farm people with incomes drastically cut these last few years, necessitating the most rigid, almost painful, economy, I wonder how they maintain their morale as well as they do.

One of the most important functions of a county agent is to help rural people make adjustments to meet changing conditions. Making ends meet, balancing income and expenditures, has been a serious problem for nearly all groups of people since 1929, especially farm people. Frank D. Jones, since 1916 the county agent of Lamoille County, Vt., has for the past 3 years carried on a farm-management program which has helped many farmers in his county to make ends meet and be happy instead of miserable. He has gone into the farm homes, checked up on the inventory, obtained figures on milk production, found the weaknesses in the farm business, made suggestions to correct them, and with a parting word of good cheer has left for the next farm, sometimes by automobile, sometimes by horse and buggy, and oftentimes on foot when road conditions prevented other means of transportation.

County Agent Jones described his program to farm bureau members recently at their annual meeting thus:

"The program which I map out each year in December is planned to aid farm people in meeting the difficulties of the situation under which they are laboring. The object of all agricultural extension work is to assist farm people, through education and organization, to gain advantages that otherwise would be denied them. Everyone knows that the prosperity of any nation depends upon the prosperity of its agricultural classes. It must be apparent to everyone that the 30,000,000 farm people in the United States today must be placed in a better economic position before national prosperity can return.

"In view of the economic status of the average Lamoille County farmer, the program was built around something I call farm management and was intended



County Agent Frank D. Jones. His farm-management program was a boon to many farmers in Lamoille County.

to show how good or how bad the business on each farm was, so far as figures could show it. I tried to visit as many farms as possible in the early part of the year and make up a picture of the farm business for 1933 by means of figures. First, these figures show the size of each farm business studied, number of acres, number of cows, and amount of investment. Secondly, each man was asked to estimate his acreage of crops and their approximate yield. Thirdly, the production of the dairy was shown by sales of butterfat or milk and by the amount of milk used by the family and the amount sold. Fourthly, the fixed charges of taxes and insurance were tabulated.

"To the individual farmer these figures furnish two items of value. The first is that of having the farm business on one sheet of paper where he can see his investment in livestock, equipment, land, and buildings, and feed and supplies set opposite the income of this investment plus his labor. The second value is that of being allowed to compare his farm with the average of a large number of neighboring similar farms, by means of which comparison he may get some idea of his efficiency as a dairyman."

Take, for instance, the farm of Mr. X, in Hyde Park, Vt. Mr. X was formerly a creamery manager and storekeeper.

Having sold his business, his desire to own a farm brought him to Hyde Park in 1931. He purchased a 100-acre dairy farm with 30 Ayrshire cows. In the spring of 1932 he was advised to cull all cows producing less than 30 pounds of milk and purchase a good herd sire. He did cull his herd to 19 cows, as a result of having the herd tested for butterfat, fed according to production, and increased his profit.

In addition to his herd-improvement work, Mr. X has used lime and superphosphate on the county agent's recommendation, thereby increasing the yield and quality of the hay he feeds. He is only one of a number of Lamoille County farmers who have been assisted by County Agent Jones to make ends meet by increasing the profit from the farm business.

Abraham Lincoln once said: "If we could but know where we are, and whither we are trending, we would know better what to do and how to do it." As you can see, the Lamoille County program does just this for the farmer. The review of the farm figures for the year shows a farmer where he is. The outlook information gives him an idea of the trend of prices, of cow numbers, and fixed costs. Finally, the agent makes suggestions as to practices which, if adopted, will aid in making the farm business more profitable.

Erosion Control Results

The results of the first year's work on the Reedy Creek soil-erosion-control project near Spencer, W. Va., are more than paper plans. A year ago very few farmers were producing any alfalfa in the region; now there are more than 400 farmers planting this valuable crop. Crop rotations have been worked out for more than 7,000 acres, and 64 percent of the 53,591-acre area is being used as pasture. Erosion-resistant plants, such as lespedeza and kudzu, have been introduced into the area, and it is estimated that 2,000 acres of lespedeza will be sown. Strip farming is being practiced on many of the farms. Cooperating farmers have applied about 12,000 tons of lime and 1,100 tons of fertilizer, together with the necessary plantings of grasses and grain seeds.

War Declared on Weeds

A Concerted Attack on Weeds is Bringing Results in Adams County, Ind., According to Oliver C. Lee, Extension Specialist in Weed Control

IN EVERY community and township in Adams County, Ind., farmers have eradicated, or are in the process of eradicating, that patch of Canada thistle, quackgrass, or European bindweed that has been threatening to take the field. Small patches of weeds are being sprayed with sodium chlorate while larger areas are being eradicated with persistent cultivation.

Much credit for creating interest in weed control in Adams County should go to County Agent L. E. Archbold. Shortly after his appointment as county agent he laid plans for an educational program to acquaint the people of his county with the serious weed pests and recommended methods of eradication. The intensive weed work started in 1931 when, with the assistance of the Purdue University weed specialist, seven field demonstrations were held. Cooperators were obtained, and meetings were scheduled on farms where Canada thistle, quackgrass, or bindweed was found. Methods of spraying were demonstrated by actually spraying a patch of weeds. Properties of sodium chlorate were discussed. The fire hazard connected with the use of the material was carefully explained and demonstrated. The growth habits of weeds were discussed, and the importance of eradicating the perennial types before they became wide-spread was pointed out. Farmers were asked to bring weeds to the meetings for identification. It was pointed out that sodium chlorate is expensive and, therefore, practical only for the eradication of

small patches. Persistent cultivation was recommended for large areas. The area should be cultivated as often as necessary to keep down all top growth, sometimes as often as once a week.

In 1932 and 1933, 15 additional demonstration meetings were held. These meetings were scheduled on farms where spraying or cultivation had been applied the previous year. At that time results of the previous work were studied, and again recommendations for eradication were given. Those in attendance had an opportunity to see the results. "Seeing is believing." Many a farmer doubting the possibility of eradicating perennial weeds changed his mind, went home, and set to work on his patch.

To solve the problem of applying sodium chlorate four commercial spray rigs were arranged for in the county. The machines were owned by local people who did custom work for a nominal fee. During the past 3 years more than 15,000 pounds of sodium chlorate has been used to kill weeds—an amount sufficient to spray approximately 50 acres. The patches of weeds sprayed in that county will not exceed one-eighth of an acre in size on an average. According to the above figures some 400 patches of perennial weeds have been sprayed and the effectiveness of chlorate demonstrated. County commissioners have co-operated in the weed-control movement by spraying roadsides.

Farmers did not take to the cultivation method as readily as to spraying until in 1934 when it became possible to include

weed-infested areas in the contracted acreage. Through publicity and meetings the farmer's attention was called to the good opportunity for cleaning up that weedy field by leaving it out of crop and keeping the weeds turned under by cultivation. Many a patch of Canada thistle and quackgrass was eradicated by this method in Adams County as well as in other counties of the State.

The Referendum Method

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Another significant gain from the referendum is closely related to that coming from the operation of the county production-control associations. This is the development of leadership among farmers themselves. In every community there are certain farmers who have taken the initiative in the production-adjustment programs. These are the men who serve on the community and county committees, or who serve as leaders in the discussion meetings which are held. They are the men who really insure the success of these programs. Close to the soil, working among their neighbors, actually operating farms under the programs which they favor, they hold positions of increasing respect and importance in their individual communities. They are the developing leaders of a potential economic democracy.

Another result of the referendum is to bring into true alinement those interests which are opposed to the efforts being made to aid agriculture. Here again the focusing of attention on a single or, at most, a very limited number of issues cuts the ground from under those who in a general election rely upon passion, prejudice, catchwords, and slogans to divert attention from fundamental interests. In these economic referenda, those opposed to the programs have full opportunity to present their opposition, but the opposition is brought out in the open, and it must bear directly upon the issue. There is room for honest difference of opinion. Any other interest is readily seen in its true color.

Finally, and of greatest significance, the referendum gives the promise of a continuance and greater effectiveness of the democratic principle. It is the development of an American institution which can be applied to the increasing complexity of our economic life but yet retain those elements of freedom which all Americans cherish.



One of the four commercial spraying machines used to spray weeds in Adams County.

Opportunities in Alaska

As the new Alaska pioneers start their homesteading venture in the Matanuska Valley, they will find the extension service there ready to help them with their agricultural and homemaking problems. The Alaska Extension Service was organized in 1930 when Federal funds were made available. Ross Sheely was appointed director and Mrs. Lydia O. Fohn-Hansen, assistant director for home economics, who with one veterinary specialist, J. B. Loftus, compose the staff. Though the staff is small, they are developing a fine useful program as the following article shows.

POPULATION through the ages has moved westward. When our 1935 pioneers left San Francisco and Seattle they traveled westward to Seward, Alaska. They then traveled 200 miles by rail into interior Alaska to build their new homes in the Matanuska Valley.

Even though our 1935 pioneers had been informed that they would find a frontier which knew no drought, it is most likely that during the garden and crop season they will find their expectations fulfilled with happy surprises. What will they grow in their gardens? Fine crisp head lettuce, cauliflower, cabbage, celery, turnips, carrots, beans, potatoes, and other vegetables, all of high quality. In another year Ross Sheely, director of extension and agriculturist, will have shown them how to build hot-houses in which the family supply of tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers can be grown. Requests for garden information have headed the list the past 4 years at the Territorial extension office at the Alaska Agricultural College at Fairbanks. The potato growers in the Matanuska and Fairbanks sections have received special help from the extension service in grading, disease control, and storage.

The livestock population of Alaska is small, and there is need for increase. Such problems as obtaining good breeding stock, housing, and feed are extension service projects. Assistance is being given to dairymen and farmers in obtaining breeding stock, building up herds, planning silos, and producing milk more economically. Sheep, swine, and poultry come in for some attention.

With the demand for more livestock, more forage and permanent hay crops are being grown. The Alaska Experiment Station at Fairbanks has through a number of years proved the best varieties of oats, wheat, and clover for Alaska conditions, and such information is being extended to the farm-

ers by the extension service. Several farmers have successfully demonstrated the growing of Siberian red clover as a forage crop and a permanent hay crop. Also, some are making demonstrations with Arctic sweet-clover, which is a good forage crop and soil builder. A few farmers have built hay driers modeled after the extension service plans. They use the driers if unfavorable weather interferes with sun and air-curing of hay.

Raising Foxes

Fox farming is conducted in many sections of the Territory; blues and silvers being the popular breeds. The extension service employs a veterinarian, Dr. J. B. Loftus, who is kept very busy helping the fox farmers. Did you ever hear two fox farmers talking? It is a rare treat. Foxes are as temperamental as human beings, and all their whims have to be catered to in order to get the best results. The feeding and breeding is a scientific study.

No doubt a large number of the women among the new settlers have attended home demonstration meetings back home in the Northwestern States and are happy to find home demonstration work ready to serve them in their new homes in Alaska. The best means of preserving the surplus garden products, wild berries, fish, and meat for winter use will be demonstrated by Mrs. Lydia Fohn-Hansen, assistant director for home economics extension, when she makes her regular extension trips to the Matanuska Valley this summer.

The farm and village women in Alaska are progressive and eager for new ideas. The great distance between communities, with less travel and communication, en-

hances the high appreciation of home demonstration work. Twelve hundred women receive regularly the home demonstration news letters, and 10,334 home-economics bulletins were distributed in 1934.

As most women in Alaska do all their own housework, the management of time and energy is important. Eleven of the 20 organized groups conducting home demonstration programs are studying a management project called "Taking the Work Out of Housework." Putting brains as well as brawn into housework makes life much more interesting for women. The groups learn how to arrange the kitchen equipment and utensils to save time and energy. They first study good kitchen plans. They consider all household duties in the analysis of time and energy expended in the day's work. Women want to know about the best laundry methods to use under different home conditions; also about the care of woolen clothing and household articles. To be a rested, happy housekeeper, one must learn correct posture and the proper care of the feet. Home demonstration groups in Alaska are studying and discussing all these important phases of home management.

Some Alaska women find both rest and profit in spending spare time on handi-

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(Above) Director Sheely in a field of Siberian red clover.
(Below) An Alaskan home made beautiful with flowers.

The Farm Home Needs Paint

Massachusetts Follows up Housing Survey with Help on Desired Improvements

IF GIVEN \$500 to spend on her home, the Massachusetts homemaker's first thought would be to repaint or refinish the exterior and interior surfaces. These 2 jobs are of about equal importance in her mind and together were first choice in 85 percent of the 2,065 homes surveyed in Massachusetts by the Home Economics Extension Service of the Massachusetts State College in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture and the Federal Civil Works Administration. Mrs. Harriet J. Haynes, extension home-management specialist, was in charge of the work and states that bathroom equipment and installing water systems were the second and third most longed-for improvements.

The Massachusetts Extension Service has attempted to put the information obtained in the housing survey to good use. News articles to the general press have been sent out giving the results of the survey. Radio programs have also been put on the air regarding the results of the survey. All the homemakers who were surveyed have been sent a letter giving briefly the results of the survey and indicating that the extension service of the counties and the State college is in a position to give help on these vari-

ous improvements. With this letter, which was sent out by Mrs. Haynes, was included a return card on which the homemaker checked the particular repairs on which she desired information. The three methods suggested for supplying the information requested on these cards were printed material, personal visits, and special meetings arranged for the purpose.

Another letter has gone to all farm and home owners on the list of the county extension services, telling of the Federal Housing Administration and its efforts to aid the farm family in making repairs. This letter was signed by the county agricultural agent and again offered the services of the extension service in helping with any problem.

Borrowing for Repairs

In this letter it was pointed out to the home owners that there are at least three circumstances under which they might be justified in borrowing money for repairing or improving their property: First, if the improvements give promise of increasing the income high enough to pay for themselves; second, if the repairs will stop heavy depreciation on buildings and reduce further repair bills; and

third, if the owner can save enough out of his income in the next 3 years to pay for improvements which will add to the comfort and pleasure of the farm family.

The credit statement required for a loan and the bulletin "Farm Property Improvement" issued by the Federal Housing Administration were enclosures with this letter.

Another method which the Massachusetts Extension Service used in distributing information about home repairs was through a service called Program Hints. Program Hints goes each month to 490 organizations in the State. The material is used by the majority as the basis for a program. In the particular issue, two playlets were given, telling the results of the survey and things which might be done about the home, and something about the Federal Housing Administration. Also included were the questions which are in the "Farm Property Improvement" publication. These questions tell the who, what, when, why, and how of the FHA.

Do We Still Believe in Democracy?

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and ideas out of which to build their "speeches" and then have it arrive the morning of or the day after the meeting.

After much experimenting, this public-discussion program in Wisconsin is coming to be built around three sets of specialists, a group man who is the extension rural sociologist, a specialist in discussion methods, and a subject-matter man on each of the topics chosen for discussion. The division of labor is as follows: The sociologist, as a part of a broader program including drama, music, and recreation, presents the discussion idea to the proper group leaders and assists them in organizing and administering the public-discussion program as a part of the regular programs of rural organizations; the speech specialist teaches methods of public discussion and public speaking at the various discussion leaders' training schools and studies the effectiveness of various discussion methods in influencing public opinion, while the subject-matter man gathers and organizes the latest facts on the problem and makes these facts available through discussion handbooks and lists of source materials and at the discussion training schools. There is a clear-cut division of labor, and all three functions have a distinctive place in the Wisconsin discussion program.

Opportunities in Alaska

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craft arts. Women and 4-H club girls are making very useful and good-looking handmade gloves of native-tanned caribou and reindeer hides. They carry on weaving as a home industry for both pleasure and profit. Both the whites and natives weave scarfs and rugs. By natives, the Indian and Eskimo population is meant. Original designs featuring native motifs are worked out for the hooked rugs and wall hangings. In some groups the women buy a small table loom and weave the winter supply of scarfs for their families. Many women in Alaska carry around knitting bags and when visiting with friends and neighbors make the needles fly. Warm woolen knitted wear comes in handy for school children and for all out-of-door use during the cold winters. In 1934 the extension office had 1,200 requests for the di-

rections for knitting the spiral sock which is now popular in Alaska.

Although ready-made clothing can be purchased throughout Alaska, many women and girls want to know how to cut and fit patterns, to make dress forms, to learn the best processes in construction and remodeling, and good designs in children's clothing. The native girls especially like to sew, and their work in the 4-H clothing clubs is most creditable.

The extension service was organized in Alaska in 1930. Already Alaska people have come to recognize the service as a very valuable asset to the Territory. Alaska has three radio stations over which the extension service broadcasts. The farthest north radio station in the world is at Anchorage.

Alaska, our last frontier, is a frontier with modern conveniences and advantages, and our 1935 Alaska pioneers will find much more to begin a new life with than their fathers and mothers who made their way across the western plains with the same high hopes for the future.



East Texas Farmers Invest in Pastures



FARMERS in 22 northeast Texas counties are investing in permanent pastures, and some of the pastures have already paid dividends. An estimated total of \$61,211 was invested in 927 pastures involving 19,302 acres of farm land. One hundred and forty-four pasture demonstrations, which covered 5,958 acres, cost the cooperating farmers \$5,272.50 for seed, fertilizer, and labor—less than \$1 per acre. A survey of the annual reports of the extension workers in the 22 counties by District Agent George W. Johnson showed that in addition to permanent pasture work 1,472 farmers, cooperating in the cotton program, planted Sudan grass or other temporary pasture crops on the contracted acres during 1934.

Seed Purchased

The county agricultural agent of Bowie County reports for 1934 that about 100 farmers purchased mixtures of clover and grass seeds for permanent pasture improvement, involving 2,500 acres. The average number of pounds of seed per acre in this section is 15. The improved varieties of lespedeza, such as Korean, Kobe, and Tennessee 76, are being introduced. Most of the lespedeza seed included in the mixture is of the native variety. With so many Government-vented acres available for planting feed crops it is hard to estimate how many acres of temporary pastures were planted to such crops as Sudan grass, hegari, sorghum, peanuts, and velvet and soybeans.

In Gregg County 7 demonstrators improved 485 acres of pasture land by removing the underbrush, cleaning the timber, and controlling weed infestation to the extent that this acreage carried 156 head of livestock through the year 1934 at a cost of \$485 and an estimated value of \$4,850. These demonstrations, of course, have been in process of improvement over a period of 4 years, but

there is a perpetual improvement of weed control and of keeping down briars and underbrush to increase the grazing capacity. Two of these pasture demonstrators sold cattle to the Government, and 95 percent of these cattle sold were in good condition to be accepted as edible livestock; whereas on another pasture using a carrying capacity of 10 acres to the cow, compared to 4 acres to the cow on these demonstration pastures, 75 percent of the cattle sold to the Government from the unimproved pastures were condemned, due to malnutrition. The effect of these demonstrations has been far-reaching over the period of the past 3 years. Numerous interested farmers have visited the better-pasture demonstrations in order that they might get the idea and have such a pasture.

Grazing Pays Farmers

Ten farmers in Fannin County, each farmer representing a community, were enrolled during February 1934 in pasture work of a permanent nature. This involved an acreage of 173 at a total cost of \$478, according to the county agent's report. Three grasses and four clovers were used in the mixture. In spite of the severest drought in years coming on these pastures in their early stage, 6 of these 10 farmers report that they are convinced that pastures will pay. They estimate that the extra grazing has, even under drought conditions, repaid them and they are continuing the work in 1935. One of the demonstrators, I. W. Evans, Bonham, Tex., reported that his Dallis grass, clover, and Bermuda grass kept him from having to sell his stock to the Government last summer.

Pasture Demonstrations Improved

The county agricultural agent of Harrison County reported that 10 pasture demonstrations, with 1,500 acres, made a great deal of improvement during the year 1934. All the demonstrations made a good start, but the dry weather in June, July, August, September, and October cut the pastures short. In some cases the seed and much of the Bermuda, carpet, and Dallis grass sod were lost. The largest part of the pasture work has been fence building, cutting out underbrush, and controlling weeds. The larger demonstrations are seeding small pasture plots to bur-clover, lespedeza, and white Dutch clover at planned intervals. In this way it is hoped gradually to seed the entire pasture. Ten demonstrators have put contours on their pastures every 10 feet on the hillside and then seeded and set out Bermuda grass on the contours. After a visit to the Duck Creek soil-erosion project near Lindale in Smith County, all the men have started to control erosion on their pastures. Some are planning contours, dams in gullies, or terraces. The permanent pasture work is gradually gaining favor in Harrison County.

From Hopkins County comes the report of one old reliable demonstrator who continues to stay with the county agent on permanent pasture ideas. This man is S. G. Day of Como, Tex. Mr. Day reported that due to drought his pastures produced hardly enough to mention, but he was not quitting pasture work. Five additional cooperators are starting permanent pastures this fall. They have an average of 5 acres each well seeded with:

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Carrying Out a Cotton Educational Program

THE farmers of Toombs County, Ga., are earnestly cooperating in the AAA programs for the adjustment of cotton and tobacco production, 99.5 percent of the farmers having already signed contracts.

County Agent Joel C. Richardson and the three teachers of vocational agriculture in the county have organized and carried out a cooperative educational program which has brought up for consideration every phase of the agricultural plan since the emergency plow-up campaign in 1933. The educational program was organized in such a way that every community in the county received the benefit of the meetings. County Agent Richardson estimates that every farmer in the county has received information on the various phases of the program, either directly or indirectly, as a result of the meetings.

The courses of instruction were given in the 12 communities of the county, with practically the entire farm population in attendance. Meetings were held to familiarize the farmers with the cotton plow-up contract, the 1934-35 cotton acreage adjustment contract, the Bankhead Act, cotton processing tax, foreign cotton production possibilities, farm-record keeping, and election of community control committeemen. Twenty-five meetings were held in communities by the agent and teachers during 1933, 40 in 1934, and 26 thus far in 1935.

Before any phase of the AAA program was to go into effect the control committeemen were trained for that particular job by the agent and teachers.



County agent and vocational teachers of Toombs County, Ga.

This, of course, meant greater efficiency on the part of the committeemen and explains the scarcity of errors made by them in the performance of their duties.

The committeemen cooperated with the agent and teachers one hundred percent in carrying out all the adjustment plans. They helped to advertise each educational community meeting and attended the meetings held in their respective communities.

The three teachers of agriculture assumed the additional work without any increase in salary, as well as bearing the additional expense of their automobile operation in connection with the program.

A check-up on records in the county control office reveals that in 1933, 91 percent of the Toombs County cotton growers participated in the plow-up campaign.

Among the strictly agricultural extension activities to which the Soil Erosion Experiment Station, the Soil Erosion Service, and the Civilian Conservation Corps have contributed during the past year are: Six demonstrational field meetings for agricultural agents and vocational agriculture teachers, 5 conferences of extension workers, 7 radio talks, 6 mimeographs to county agents and other agricultural leaders concerning soil erosion, and 2 field meetings for 550 vocational agriculture students.

In 1934, 88 percent of the cotton and tobacco producers were under contract, and in 1935, 99.5 percent of the cotton and tobacco growers have signed contracts.

Farmers who were thoroughly familiar with the benefits to be derived from the adjustment program were eager to lend their support toward the success of the program.

East Texas Farmers Invest in Pastures

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bur-clover at this time. They removed brush and small bushes from the pasture and the cost of seeding, so far, has been inexpensive, inasmuch as permission was granted to the county agricultural agent to obtain bur-clover seed from the right-of-way. They expect to continue the work by adding other grasses in future seasons.

Profit From Livestock

The agent of Upshur County reported that pasture demonstrators were hard hit this past year, but one man with his 60 acres in Medlin creek bottom and 40 acres upland made a profit of \$1,066 from his animals when he charged 4 cents per day per animal unit grazed. Three co-operators reported \$500 benefit from 235 acres of improved pasture. One-pound packages of rye grass seed were given to five farmers through the cooperation of the Upshur County Chamber of Commerce.

"Each farmer should examine the possibility of sowing more land to pasturage and roughage. It is possible that the cost of production would be cut and the net profit increased per farm. Likewise, others might find that it would lower the income per farm. We may change our thinking about pastures. As a rule, our pastures in the past have been on our poorest soil. To make good pastures we will have to build up the poor soils and then use such clovers and grasses as are most adaptable. We may have to terrace, fertilize, inoculate, and seed them with such mixtures as have proved most successful. The purpose of pastures is to feed livestock. The kind and number of livestock should be considered carefully in order to receive the maximum amount of good grazing", says Mr. Johnson.

Lost: Millions of Dollars

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realize the extent of their loss or the possibility of preventing it. The workers further realize that to accomplish most they must give every possible assistance to all agencies that are in a position to assist in the campaign. By so doing it is believed that all programs are kept better balanced, and the efficiency of the work greatly increased.

Let Us Go Forward

M. L. WILSON

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture

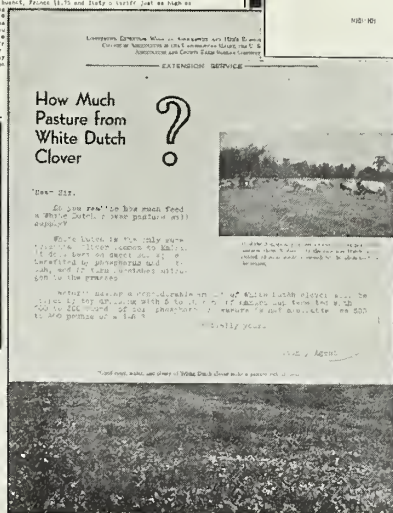
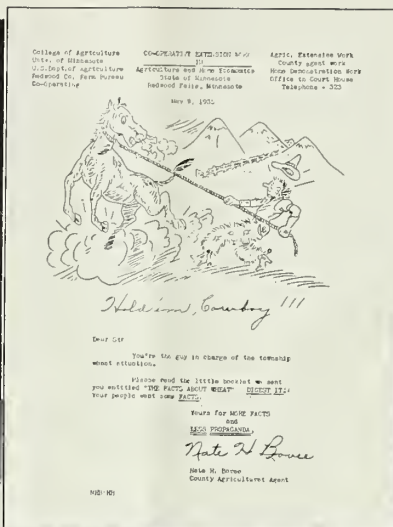
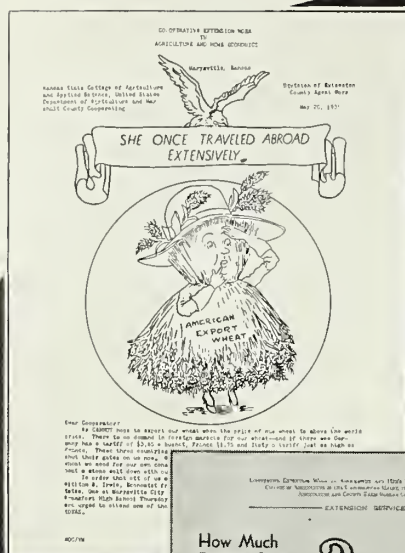
THE NEED for a general policy with regard to our land use is obvious. The prevention of erosion, the retirement of submarginal land, and the framing of production-control contracts to permit of the best farm practices are problems for both our immediate and our future consideration.

If our future contracts are to be so framed, more local administration by the farmers on the spot who know their counties at first hand must obviously be developed. We have a long way to go. Our efforts during the past three years are only a crude start toward the building of the kind of commonwealth to which we aspire.

The farmer of today must think his way through. He must see his field and the fields of his neighbors in his county-control associations first as part of a regional

agriculture, then as part of a national and international agriculture, and then as part of an economic society that includes both the city and the farm.

The farmer has chosen the democratic approach to his problems, and I think he means to see that the democratic process is maintained and strengthened as the foundation of our institutions. This democratic process is partly one of self-education as to the facts, so as to bring fitness to make decisions. It is a spiritual and mental process. The progress of the last few years is a heartening indication that the task which the farmers have assumed, gigantic though it may be, is still not too big for them. I have faith that they will continue to go forward along the path they have chosen for themselves.



You Too Can Write Good Circular Letters

Extension agents want to get maximum results from their letters. Many do. Some DO NOT. Here are a FEW pointers that will help.

1. Form mind picture of impression letter is intended to give. Decide which approach will result in action desired.
2. Present one fundamental idea clearly, briefly, and accurately. Give all facts necessary for intelligent decision.
3. Arrest attention and arouse interest at beginning of letter. Make first sentence and paragraph short and snappy—something different from other letters. Dramatize wants, needs, and solutions. Put most important point at end to create desire and impel action. Make it easy to get more information and help.
4. Write in language of reader. Use simple words, short sentences, short paragraphs. Be natural. Put thoughts in proper sequence and proceed smoothly to climax.
5. Be sympathetic, friendly, sincere.
6. Illustrate with sketch or photograph that adds punch.
7. Arrange material, typography, and illustrations, and have the quality of printing or mimeographing good so that the letter will look inviting and be easy to read. Use paper of good stock, and color, if used, should be pleasing.

Well-planned circular letters pay well in results. Two pamphlets which give complete information on planning, writing, and using circular letters are available upon request. They are "Circular Letters that Bring Results", by H. W. HOCHBAUM, and "Effective Circular Letters and How to Prepare Them", by H. W. GILBERTSON. Write for them to

EXTENSION SERVICE
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.